



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard  
Secretary

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli 410-339-5065  
Rick Binetti 339-5007

## **DPSCS Pledges to Work With Laurel Regional Hospital On Security Issues**

TOWSON, MD (January 4, 2007)---Maryland Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Gary Maynard and Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Terrence Sheridan today pledged to work with Laurel Regional Hospital on security issues related to Tuesday's escape by inmate Kelvin Poke.

Secretary Maynard contacted the CEO of Dimensions Healthcare System, Laurel Regional's parent company. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has also been in contact with the Maryland Hospital Association.

Laurel Regional will continue to accept emergency cases from the prisons when inmates arrive via 9-1-1 transport. However, Laurel Regional's change in policy is not expected to have a significant impact on the State prison system, since the most recent statistics available, for the month of November, show that Laurel Regional admitted just six inmates from State prisons and had just 20 scheduled inmate healthcare visits, very small numbers given that more than 800 inmate medical transports were made during the month.

Secretary Maynard and DPSCS are committed to reaching out to all stakeholders as we work with Dimensions Healthcare on these very important issues.

###

[www.dpscs.state.md.us](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us)